Resources:

For permit and technical information:
City of Bellevue ..... (425) 452-6864
City of Issaquah ..... (425) 837-3100
City of Kirkland ..... (425) 828-1144
City of Redmond ..... (425) 556-2473

For loan information:
Washington Mutual Bank ..... (800) 756-8000
Bank of America Resource
Center ..... (206) 585-1808

Self-Help Workshops,
Contractor Training/
Referral ..... (206) 382-2159

For seismic risk information:
UW Seismology Lab ..... (206) 543-7010

BUILDING A DISASTER RESISTANT COMMUNITY
PROJECT IMPACT SEATTLE

Project Impact

The Pacific Northwest
is at risk for a major earthquake. We've had them before and we'll have them again. The question is not *if,* but when …
… and *how* we can make our homes, families and communities safer!

Project Impact **is a community response …**

focusing the efforts of homeowners, government, and business on one goal ***… a safer community.***

Earthquakes:

Are we really at risk? Washington State has the third highest threat of earthquake in the U.S.

The Pacific Northwest is at risk of serious earthquakes from 3 distinct sources.

- *Deep Faults* produced the 1949 and 1965 earthquakes, causing major loss.
- *Shallow Crustal Faults*, such as the Seattle Fault, produce greater than 7 magnitude earthquakes.
- *The Cascadia Subduction Zone* produces magnitude 8-9 earthquakes infrequently, but with severe consequences.

We can't stop earthquakes from happening, but we can do something to reduce their impact. Strengthening homes to make them disaster resistent (retrofitting) can be easy…and does make a difference.

What is Project Impact:

Project Impact is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program to mitigate earthquake damage by encouraging homeowners to do seismic retrofit of their homes. Seismic retrofitting includes anchoring the home to the foundation, bracing cripple walls, connecting floor joists, and strapping the water heater. Homeowners can do the work themselves with proper training, or a contractor may be used. The retrofitting process does make a difference—homes perform better in earthquakes.

The cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, and Redmond are partners in this project by offering Standard Home Earthquake Retrofit Plans, produced in cooperation with FEMA, and a simplified permit process. To receive **Project Impact** guidelines and step-by-step home retrofit information please contact your City's building department as listed on the back of this brochure.

Local branches of Washington Mutual and Bank of America banks are making special loans available as a part of this program.

Self-help retrofit workshops are being offered in Seattle. In addition, trained contractors are available to those needing assistance. For class schedule, registration or contractor information, please call the Seattle Project Impact Home Retrofit Program at (206) 382-2159.

This program is supported by Eastside Building Officials Group.

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Homeowners ask about retrofitting…

Q: How do I know if my home is adequately secured to the foundation?

*Homes built before 1965 generally **lack** foundation anchor bolts. Homes built between 1965 and 1975 **may** have foundation anchor bolts. Homes built after 1975 generally **will** have foundation anchor bolts. Some homes built as recently as 1985 may lack anchor bolts.*

Q: My home was built in the '30's and appears to have survived the 1949 and 1965 earthquakes just fine. Doesn't this mean that I'm probably not at much risk?

No. Each time an earthquake hits, it weakens your structure. And because each event is different, what's happened in the past is no guarantee of what may happen in the future.

Q: Is there anything I can do to protect my home if a really serious earthquake hits?

Yes. Many things can reduce the likelihood of damage, including anchoring your home to the foundation, strapping down your water heater and securing your belongings.

Q: What does it cost to retrofit?

It depends on what needs to be done and if you can do some of it yourself. Materials can cost as little as a few hundred dollars.

Q: What requirements must my home meet in order to use the Standard Home Earthquake Retrofit Plans?

To use the Standard Home Earthquake Retrofit (SHER) Plan a home must have:

- *4 or fewer dwelling units*
- *light wood frame construction*
- *3 or fewer stories*
- *solid concrete or concrete block foundation*
- *moderate slope of 30% or less*
- *average shape and size*
- *See SHER Plans for further details*